

Chapter 1 is concerned mainly with hospital facilities for veterans; but the second portion of Chapter 1 on home care and Chapter 3 on psychological problems of the chronically ill have a much broader scope. There are also interesting chapters on multiphasic screening, rehabilitation and nursing procedures.

The second and larger portion of the book is occupied by the therapy of specific diseases. The admitted emphasis is on management. In general, treatment is discussed first and etiology, diagnosis and pathogenesis are taken up only insofar as they relate to treatment.

Although, as a new approach, this book is generally very well done, the reviewer notes that in some chapters the accent on therapy degenerates into a listing of preparations. Proprietary names are used too often (without their pharmaceutical equivalents), and a few of the chapters suggest that the contributors have not kept up with the literature of the past 10 years.

The practicing physician and the medical student interested in the challenge of chronic disease will find this volume a good reference.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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DIFFICULT DIAGNOSIS (A Guide to the Interpretation of Obscure Illness)—H. J. Roberts, M.D.; Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine; Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians; Associate of the American College of Physicians; Staff, Good Samaritan Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, West Palm Beach, Florida; Formerly, Research Fellow and Instructor in Medicine, Tufts University Medical School; Formerly, Research Fellow and Instructor in Medicine, Georgetown Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1958. 913 pages, \$19.00.

In the mid-twentieth century American medicine has at its disposal the skilled manpower and the laboratory aids to make a higher percentage of antemortem diagnosis far earlier than would have been thought possible only a few years ago. Although this is one of the distinguishing traits of our period Dr. Roberts is the first with the vision to attempt to integrate it for the benefit of the physicians most concerned, the internists. The result is a volume which is basically a differential diagnosis of obscure diseases.

The book is composed of two main parts. Over 600 pages are devoted to the principal aspect, the differential diagnosis of "related diseases frequently producing puzzling illness," classified into 17 groups. In addition to most of the conventional groupings along clinical lines, there are separate chapters emphasizing the importance of iatrogenic illness, cutaneous medicine (with an atlas of 99 photographs) and obscure postoperative complications. Of interest is the fact that the gastrointestinal tract is included only in the chapter "Medical-Surgical Diagnostic Problems Relating to Obscure Abdominal Pain, Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage, and Intestinal Obstruction."

Slightly less than 200 pages are included under "A Classification and Analysis of Useful Diagnostic Procedures." In general, these are grouped along conventional lines but there are provocative deviations. "Studies of the Eyes in Systemic Disorders" might well be included in Part I next to Cutaneous Medicine. The sections on therapeutic diagnostic tests, withdrawal tests and provocative tests are all of considerable interest.

In a way Roberts wrote this book for his own guidance, to serve him as a practical refresher course in differential diagnosis at the internist's postgraduate level. He has displayed a broad knowledge, a tremendous ability to pluck from and to correlate recent American medical literature and the capability of compressing it all into readable form.

The author is the first to recognize (in the preface) that

there are many faults of omission and commission in this book as a text. A single physician's limitation of knowledge, his training, his personal biases are all apparent. In using the book the reader must be aware of these. Despite the extensive and excellent cross-indexing, it is hard for one to find his way around. Some of this could be improved by additional index recessions in the cut end of the pages (similar to those in a dictionary); there should certainly be one at the beginning of Part 2. The type at the beginning of the chapters should be more distinctive if the subtitles are to be used as differential diagnosis lists. More tables of differential diagnosis would crystallize the discussions. The very nature of the book involves much use of the references, which are hard to get at especially at the end of Part 1. Putting these at the end of each section might help. Finally a specific section on *how to use this book* would help the reader.

To summarize, this book can be of real value to the internist. It offers him a tool in the differential diagnostic problems he comes across almost daily. It is a reasoned text on diagnosis which includes the various ancillary methods he may wish to employ. It is a book which contains a mass of miscellaneous information, specifically and rationally directed towards diagnosis. We commend especially the orientation around iatrogenic disease.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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PATIENT CARE AND SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN X-RAY TECHNOLOGY—Carol Hocking Vennes, R.N., B.S., formerly Surgical Supervisor and Clinical Instructor, University of Minnesota Hospitals, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and John C. Watson, R.T., Director of Courses in X-Ray Technology, University of Minnesota Hospitals, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Missouri, 1959. 203 pages, \$5.75.

Drive not a second nail till the first be clinched, goes an old saying. If student x-ray technicians, students of medicine who are first coming in contact with x-ray departments, and student nurses would read this little manual, the welfare of patients in x-ray departments and offices would be greatly enhanced and the thoroughness of many examinations achieved with greater ease. There are many excellent books on x-ray technique but to this reviewer's knowledge, this is the first monograph dealing with the handling and care of the patient undergoing roentgen diagnostic procedures.

After three introductory chapters dealing with general patient care, the relation of the technician to the patient and the elements of first aid care in emergencies, there is a succession of chapters dealing with routine and special procedures.

In the chapter dealing with general radiography and fluoroscopy there is a good summary of modern contrast media, radiation hazards and sterile technique. In the special chapters there is excellent information concerning improved methods of bedside radiography, the handling of patients needing special care such as the critically ill patient, the cardiac, the respirator case and the orthopedic problem. The handling of patients with various types of intubation, in the x-ray department, at the bedside and in the operating room is well described. The place of the technician in neuroradiography, vascular radiography and certain other contrast procedures is ably outlined. Matters dealing with sterile precautions, isolation techniques and so forth are summarized. The manual is well illustrated and indexed. It can be heartily recommended to x-ray students, student nurses and those who would attempt the teaching of such.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.B.